NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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October 2003 – 20th Anniversary of a Computer History Milestone

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MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE – GUNTER ANNEX, Ala. -- October 2003 marks the

20th anniversary of the award of the Small Computer Requirements Contract (SCRC).

In July 1982, the Air Staff tasked the Air Force Small Computer/Office Automation

Service Organization (AFSCOASO) to develop specifications and draft a Request for

Proposal for physically small and low cost ($1,000 – $5,000) microcomputers.   The

AFSCOASO, a component of the Air Force Data Systems Design Center (the unit now

called the Standard Systems Group) evaluated 32 separate vendor proposals before

selecting Zenith Data Systems.

Air Force and Navy customers exhausted the original Delegation of Procurement

Authority – 12,000 units over 3 years, in 12 months. The government granted

extensions of the DPA and by July 1986, Air Force units had purchased more than

31,000 units through the SCRC. Zenith won the follow-on contract, which became

known as Desktop II.

Desktop III in 1989 went to Unisys. The Desktop IV contract of 1993 was a

competitive award. Winning vendors competed against one another for sales, driving

prices down and introducing technological advances quickly. The SSG employed the

same strategy for Desktop V three years later.

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Computer History Milestone
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When the Air Force awarded the SCRC, the military constituted a significant portion of the market for microcomputers. By 2000, the presence of home computing had evolved and substantially impacted the commercial marketplace.

Although no longer primary purchaser of desktops, the Air Force still enjoys the position of the largest single customer of computers with substantial leveraged buying power.

The SSG's Information Technology Tools (IT2) strategy employs Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs) to provide service members a broad array of information technology products from both large and small business manufacturers and resellers at deep discounts including F.O.B. destination shipping and the three year on-site warranties at no additional cost.

The Standard Systems Group provides and supports secure combat support information systems and networks for the Air Force and DoD components. Today, SSG systems are used at virtually every Air Force operating base – both in garrison and deployed – with more than 200,000 users and 3 million transactions daily. In addition to the various Air Force IT2 BPAs, HQ SSG plans, manages, negotiates and awards numerous other Air Force and DoD contracts.

For more information, visit AFWay at https://afway.af.mil for thousands of brand name commercial IT products and services.

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